



Liberia *Today*

THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA, WITH ITS POPULATION of about a million and a half people, is in a period of its greatest development and growth. Liberia is now a free and independent republic and, as its chief executive has said, is working for the development of its natural resources. It is aimed toward improving the over-all economic fabric and raising the standard of living of the Liberian people. Important steps have been taken in the program of general welfare.

The educational system is being strengthened from the elementary to the graduate level. A new emphasis is being placed on the training of teachers and on technical education.

Cultivated crops are being encouraged in agriculture with stress placed on the improvement of the food supply and the diet of the people. The development of poultry and livestock and of revenue crops such as rubber, cocoa, coffee, oil palms, and citrus fruits is being emphasized.

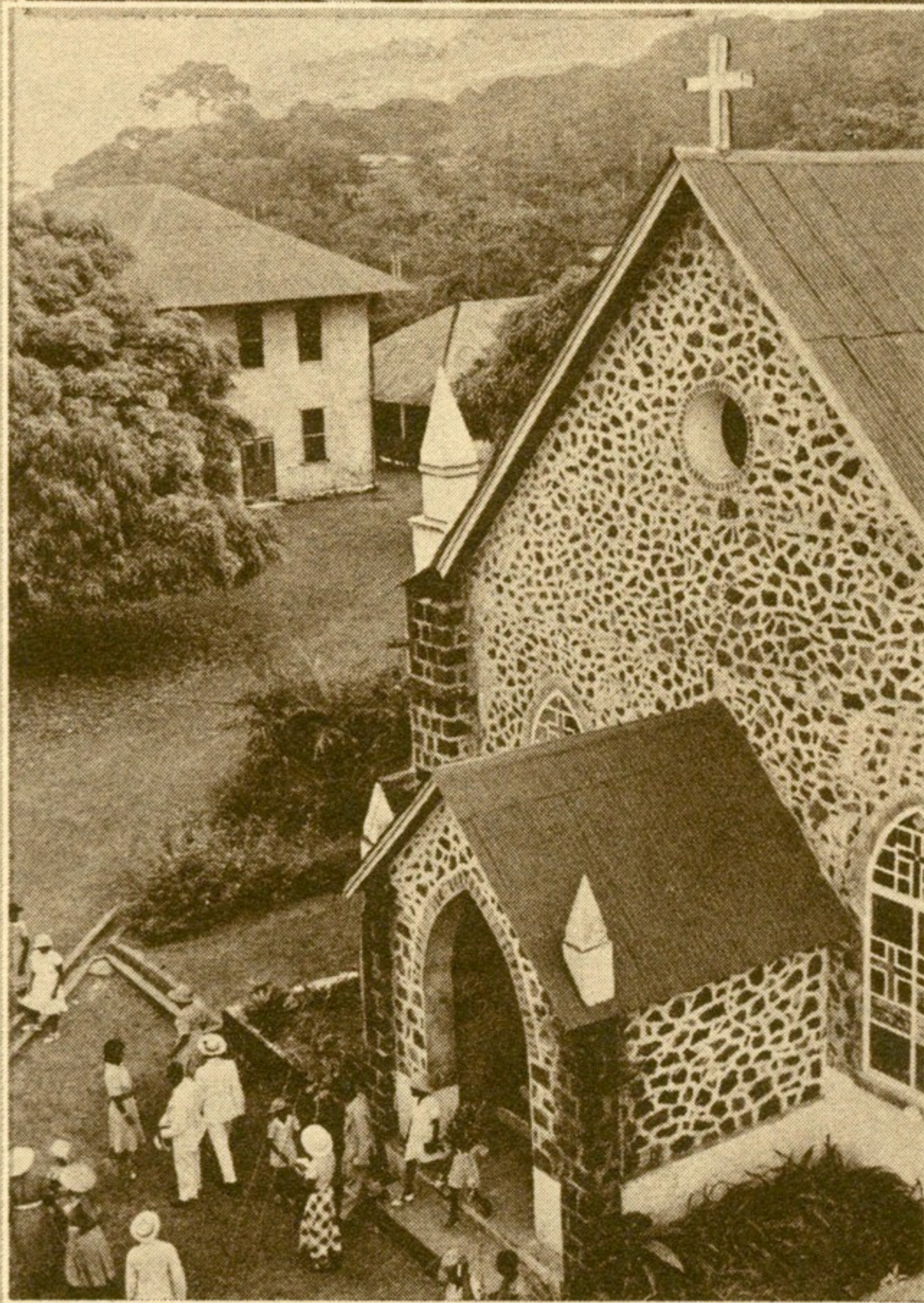
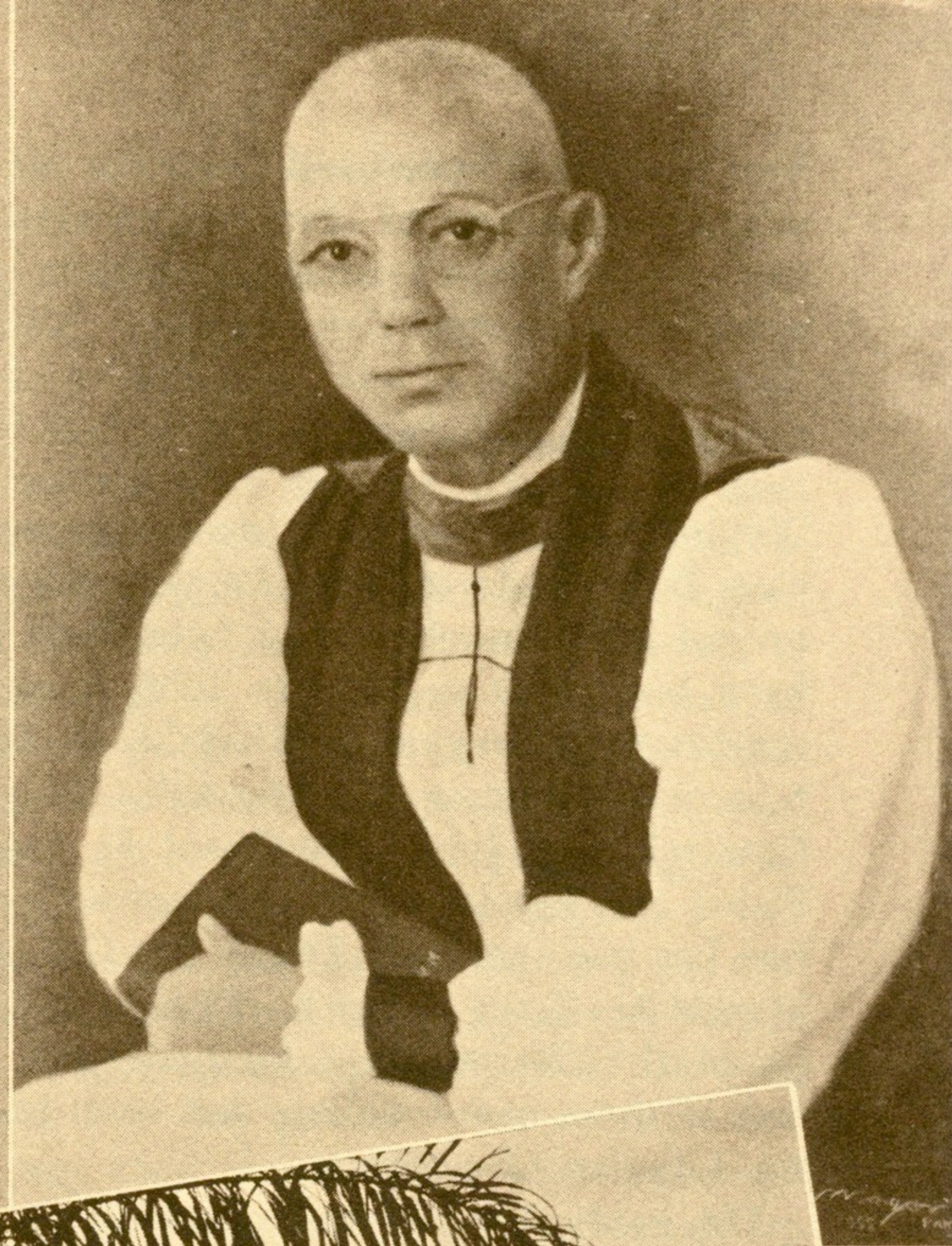
Public health, through the assistance of the World Health Organization and the United States Public Health Service, is being extended to all sections of the country. The program is especially concerned with combating the ravages of various tropical diseases, in addition to promoting general health.

The Episcopal Church has an important role in this national development. Its program is closely related to that of the republic and is concerned not only with the religious welfare of the people but the educational and physical as well.



The Holy Communion is celebrated in a village church, one of Liberia's 122 churches.

The Rt. Rev. B. W. Harris →



St. John's Church, Cape Mount



One of the buildings at Cuttington College and Divinity School, Suacoco

39 Village Schools

IN the field of education, it operates thirty-nine elementary village schools which are staffed by native teachers. Instruction is given in Christian education, the catechism, and the services of the Church. There has been a gratifying response from the young people.

Julia C. Emery Hall at Bromley, under competent leadership, has an enrollment of slightly more than one hundred girls. It is a secondary school with a special program of domestic science and continues the Christian education begun on the elementary level.

At Cape Mount is the Episcopal High School which is made up of St. John's for Boys, and the House of Bethany for Girls. New equipment has been installed, especially in the science department, and improvement has been made on the school property. A number of competent missionary teachers have been added to the faculty and the school now ranks among the first in Liberia. A regular program of religious education is carried on, both through the curriculum and through the services of the Church. Training is provided in mechanical arts and domestic science.

Cuttington Graduates First Class

SOME of these students later attend Cuttington College and Divinity School, Suakoko. A rebuilding program was begun in 1948 and there are now fifteen buildings and fifteen hundred acres of land, which is used for the agricultural pro-

gram. In addition, there are liberal arts and education courses, and, in the seminary, the training of young men for the ministry.

In 1952, approximately 45 students were enrolled at Cuttington, and in November, 1952, the first class was graduated. The backgrounds of the students were diverse: "I became so used to mission life, I hated to leave. The very year of my graduation I was confirmed in St. Agnes' Chapel by Bishop Harris," one student wrote in freshman English. . . . "There was a rumor of the opening of the Poro Bush, a society which every member of our tribe is required to join, whether or not he is willing. My father suggested that I go to a mission school instead. I was very glad he did this because that was my real desire. I was admitted to the Episcopal Village School at Bendaja on April 15, 1940," a young man tells. . . . "My parents were not educated in the way they should. They were interested only in the Koran because they were brought up on it and so it was their idea to send me to the Mohammedan schools. As time went on, the missionaries established a school in our town. The chiefs expressed appreciation to the missionaries," another says.

The 122 churches and missions minister to about 7,500 baptized persons. This number is limited only by the available leadership which today numbers twelve Liberian clergy and eleven American clergy, including the five members of the Holy Cross Mission at Bolahun. In addition there are a few lay readers, catechists, and day school teachers. Four Liberian clergy

were recently ordained and this is but the beginning of a program to send out younger clergy who are properly trained to minister to the needs of the people.

New Churches Built

WITHIN the past few years, many improvements have been made on the church property and several new churches have been built. These have been built or, late in 1952, were under construction: Emmanuel, Grasfield; St. Thomas', Monrovia; Emmanuel, Marshall; St. Paul's, Greenville; St. James', Hoffman; St. Stephen's, Plebo, and extensive improvement and renovation has been made in Trinity Pro-Cathedral in Monrovia; Grace Church, Clay-Ashland; and St. Mark's, Harper. A substantial part of the cost of these new buildings has been borne by the Liberian Churchmen.

The medical work centers around St. Timothy's Hospital at Cape Mount. In addition to the heavy clinical load of administering to about 6,500 patients a year, nurses and technicians are trained for the outstations and clinics in Cape Mount County. An important part of the work is at Massateen Leper Colony in Balomah where care is provided for approximately one hundred inpatients. The colony is supported by the American Leper Mission and the Liberian Government. Care for children is available at St. Timothy's Hospital and also at St. Andrew's School in Balomah.

The Liberian Government has given co-opera-

tion and confidence, and has supported the work with subsidies for medical programs and the agricultural work at Cuttington College, and assistance in some of the day schools.

The Church is concerned with the whole of man, his mind, body, soul and spirit, and with making men more and more into the likeness of the Creator. The workers are devoted to the task of following Christ's example of giving and sacrificing themselves for the salvation and enrichment of God's children in Liberia.

*This folder is adapted from an article in
Forth by the Rt. Rev. Bravid W. Harris, D.D.*



COVER PHOTO: Preparing rice for the family's evening meal. *Photo by Davis from Black Star*



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